

REMARKS

In response to the Non-Compliant Amendment dated November 14, 2008, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on December 14, 2008, please enter this response and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Claims, 2, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9-12, 14-19, and 20-23 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10-12, 14-18, 22 and 23 remain pending following the entry of this response. Claims 1, 7, 10, 12, 15 and 22 have been amended. Claims 6, 9, 19-21 have been cancelled. New claim 31 has been added. Applicants submit that neither the amendments nor the new claim introduces new matter.

Applicants submit that the *Rivette* reference cited by the Examiner does not disclose an annotation system configured to provide global annotations, having the characteristics recited by the amended claims. Further, Applicants submit that the *Rivette* reference does not disclose a registry maintained by the annotation system which identifies data elements to which global annotations can be anchored, as recited by claims 1, 12, 22 and 31. Further still, Applicants submit that *Rivette* does not disclose an annotation system having an interface configured to capture both annotation content supplied when a global annotation is created for a data element and a context identifying how a data element is used within document when an annotation is created, as recited by claims 1, 12, 22 and 31.

Among other things, Applicants submit that *Rivette* does not teach the method recited by claim 1 “for exchanging information between entities on a network” that includes:

identifying a plurality of data elements capable of being instantiated by each of a plurality of applications on the network and to which global annotations may be anchored, wherein each global annotation for a given data element is stored by an annotation system independently from a representation of the given data element used each of the plurality of software applications to represent the given data element, and wherein the plurality of data elements to which global annotations can be anchored are identified from a registry maintained by the annotation system.

Independent claims 12, 22, and 31 each recite a similar limitation. Instead, *Rivette* is directed to a:

method ... of linking annotations (or notes or sub-notes in a note) to Web pages. The invention enables a user to select a portion of a Web page stored at a Web site or from a local file system (if the portion of the Web page was cached). The invention creates an annotation, and links the annotation to the selected portion. The invention receives a request from a user viewing the annotation to display the selected portion linked to the annotation. In response to this request, the invention makes a connection to the Web site, if a connection is not already created, and causes the Web site to send the Web page and present the selected portion. Also note that if the portion of the Web page was cached and thus stored in a local file system, then the present invention does not need to make a connection to a Web site.

Rivette, 4:60-67 – 5:1-9. As disclosed in *Rivette*, each “note” or “sub-note” is linked to a specific portion of a particular document. That is, each “note” is associated with a specific web-page, e.g., an html document stored on a specific server. In contrast, claims 1, 12, 22, and 31 recite a “global annotation” that is not fundamentally linked to a specific document or web page. That is, the recited global annotation “for a given data element is stored by an annotation system independently from a representation of the given data element used each of the plurality of software applications to represent the given data element, and wherein the plurality of data elements to which global annotations can be anchored are identified from a registry maintained by the annotation system.”

Accordingly, it is believed that the present application now stands in condition for allowance, and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. Early notice to this effect is earnestly solicited. Should the Examiner believe a telephone call would expedite the prosecution of the application, he is invited to call the undersigned attorney at the number listed below.

Conclusion

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,

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